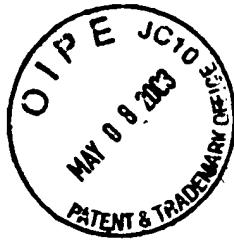


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents,
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 5, 2003.



Name of Registered Representative:

John C. Freeman, Reg. No. 34,483

May 5, 2003

Date of Signature

#7 Response
Plaska
6/12/03

PATENT
CASE NO. 10544/169

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:)
v Vladimir V. Protopopov)
Serial No.: 10/035,025) Group Art Unit: 2882
Filed: December 28, 2001) Examiner: Gemmell, Elizabeth M.
For: DARK-FIELD PHASE)
CONTRAST IMAGING)

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed February 3, 2003

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